

NEW VOICES FOR RED LINE*There's Static on Fidel's Stations*

By JULIAN MORRISON

In yesterday's editions of The Washington Daily News, columnist Don Maclean reported on fears of U.S. broadcasters over interference with their programs by several powerful new stations being built by Fidel Castro with Russian help.

There is much more to the story, however.

High Government sources said yesterday that the powerful transmitters are to be used primarily for propagandizing the peoples of Central and South America and that any interference with U.S. domestic stations would merely be a by-product.

Intelligence reports reveal that Castro has bought up to six transmitters from Czechoslovakia — two of them three times more powerful than any U.S. station, one of which is already on the air.

PROPAGANDA

Officials here say Castro is using this transmitter to broadcast communist propaganda to Central American countries, especially Panama, on frequencies in the standard broadcast band.

The transmitter, located near Holquin in Oriente Province, is also capable of broadcasting to South America on short wave frequencies, which permit much longer range transmissions.

Broadcasts are beamed to Guatemala, Venezuela and Colombia and to the Quechua Indians of Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia, as well as residents of Paraguay, among others.

One official said that the Radio Havana is heard so clearly in Panama in the mornings that it sounds like a local station.

OTHERS

Castro is currently constructing another 150,000 watt station in Havana — the same power as the station in Holquin. Two others — both having 60,000 watts of power — are being built in Santa Clara and Camaguey.

Two other 30,000 watt transmitters are reportedly in operation in Colon and Pinar del Rio.

As with the Holquin station, U.S. officials say the prime function of the others will be propaganda aimed at Latin America.

But U.S. broadcasters' fears that the new Cuban stations will interfere with their nighttime programs are apparently well founded.

INTERFERENCE

The Holquin station, operating on 670 kilowatts, could interfere with programs of Chicago's WMAQ, which uses the same frequency but has the maximum allowed power — 50,000 watts.

Interference has already been reported with programs of WNBC in New York City.

The possibility of interference with U.S. stations has also had its effect on activities of the Cuban Freedom Committee, a Washington-based front for the Central Intelligence Agency.

The CIA has contributed heavily (reportedly over \$1 million in five years) to the

Committee's "Free Cuba Radio", which sponsors anti-Castro broadcasts on Miami and New Orleans radio stations.

Last summer, after Castro retaliated by jamming its programs from a station in Key West, Free Cuba Radio pulled out.

Mrs. Maria La Arensberg, the Committee's executive director, said yesterday that the organization is considering cancelling or "rearranging" its six-hour nightly program on New Orleans' powerful WWL, a 50,000 watt station that is heard over tremendous distances.

The Committee, Mrs. Arensberg said, is in the throes of reorganization, with one faction favoring a drastic curtailment of its broadcasting activities.

BUDGET

She said the trouble was "budgetary", but denied the organization is still receiving CIA money.

If Free Cuba Radio pulls out of broadcasting entirely — it still has programs on a Miami station — the propaganda field will be left to the Voice of America.

The Voice operates one 50,000 watt station in Marathon, in the Florida Keys, that uses the standard broadcast band to beam programs to Cuba.

It operates on 1180 kilocycles and Voice officials say it does not interfere with any domestic Cuban station. Its other propaganda broadcasts to Cuba and other Latin American nations are on short wave.

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